



Greenbelt PORCH grows, p.12

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MARCH 3, 2022

Employee Booster Incentives, More ARPA Funds Authorized

by Cathie Meetre

During the Greenbelt City Council meeting of Monday, February 14, Covid-19 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were significant topics. A second article deals with other council business covered that evening.

Booster Bonus

Councilmember Kristen Weaver proposed a motion to pay a bonus to city employees who complete the Covid-19 booster shot (College Park was said to have paid \$500 per fully vaccinated employee). Acting City Manager Tim George noted that 295 of 310 city employees were initially vaccinated but only 21 have recorded having boosters as of the last report. Surprised by such a low number

of boosted staff, the News Review checked further. This revealed that, though this very low "boosted" number was used in part to justify the bonus, it is not accurate or complete. Two vaccinations (one for J&J) and allied documentation were required of staff, but booster shots and documentation are not a requirement. The 295 vaccinated staff number is likely quite accurate, but the 21 known boosted individuals turned in documentation without it being asked. But because it wasn't required, others did not. The real number of boosted staff is therefore unknown – though likely considerably higher.

See FUNDS, page 9



Peace and Justice Coalition members hold a vigil on the Spellman overpass. See story, page 12.

Saving Black History Sites Is Focus of Museum Talk

by Haley Kerby

Shockoe Bottom in Richmond, Va., was once one of the largest trading markets for enslaved people in the United States, but it was later paved over. The site is now preserved by the National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

Greenbelters heard Lawana Holland-Moore, program officer of the fund, highlight various sites like this in a lecture organized by the Greenbelt Museum. Delivered virtually on Thursday, February 24, the lecture, titled Saving Black History Sites, centered on African American historical site preservation efforts to tell untold stories of our shared history.

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund is the National Trust for Historic Preservation's \$70-million initiative, committed to crafting a narrative that expands the public's view of history by telling the full story of African American historic sites. The fund also goes toward preserving and promoting a national

identity that reflects the nation's true identity.

The action fund is the largest preservation effort ever undertaken to support African American historic sites.

Holland-Moore says of the National Trust's efforts, "By elevating the stories and places, we look to not only understand our

See MUSEUM, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, March 7
8 p.m. City Council Worksession: WMATA
Wednesday, March 9
8 p.m., Council Worksession: Reparations Commission Discussion

Both worksessions will be virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in the meetings.

Roosevelt Basketball Teams Aim for State Championships

by Patrick Gleason

It's been nearly three years since the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders boys basketball team blitzed the Broadneck Bruins, 77-48, for the 2019 Maryland 4A state championship and the Raiders are still the defending state champions. The coronavirus pandemic erased the 2020 state playoffs and the entire 2021 season, and Roosevelt is now looking to defend its crown. The Raiders lean on a strong senior class

who gained valuable experience as sophomores until the 2020 season ended before it could finish.



The Roosevelt starting lineup—Giovani Sanford, Jaylin Payne, James Rice, Ifanieye Lewis and Carlos Kinard—is excited before its regular season home victory over the Bowie Bulldogs.

Therefore, their 79-57 triumph over the Wise Pumas in the opening round of the state playoffs on February 28 came as no surprise.

Senior James Rice – who finished with 25 points – electrified a crowd (limited due to Covid-19)

See BASKETBALL, page 11

Pepco and WSSC Update City Council on Projects, Programs

by Matthew Arbach

Pepco and WSSC continue to strive to ensure quality service and meet customer needs through the lingering challenges of Covid-19, while looking ahead to a greener future that addresses the effects of climate change. On February 16, representatives of both utilities convened with Greenbelt City Council to provide an update on their current projects and programs. WSSC was represented by Government Relations Manager Monica Marquina, Construction Manager Jason Flory and Customer Advocate David Wilkins. Pepco was represented by External Affairs Manager Tony

Ruffin and Lead Manager for Vegetation Management Cody Hesseltine.

Concerning arrearages, both utilities are faced with significant delinquencies, often the result of Covid-19 difficulties. Both offer assistance programs in an effort, said Ruffin, to "help meet customers where they are."

According to Marquina, WSSC has waived its late fees and to date has not received any county, state or federal funds, including from the American Rescue Plan Act or the CARES Act.

Marquina said that one in five WSSC customers are be-

hind, with the number of those in Greenbelt numbering 500. She added that the average amount of individual residential money owed is \$517, with the combined residential and non-residential amount owed in Greenbelt totaling \$360,000. She said that the total amount of arrearages for the utility is over \$60 million.

Ruffin described the efforts to bring electric vehicle charging stations to the city, stressing that this is the future of transportation and that Pepco looks to be part of that transition. Currently, Pepco is

See COUNCIL, page 8



Annamarie Garcia, center in a white blouse, joins the order of Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará based in Upper Marlboro. See Our Neighbors, page 4.

Letters to the Editor

Keep Meeting Format

I disagree with last week's letter seeking a return to chaotic online city council meetings. That format structurally encouraged personal attacks and selfish acts of unkindness between participants. Constant interruptions and chat quarrels made it nearly impossible for staff, council and residents to conduct business and exchange ideas. The melee extended meetings well after midnight until exhausted participants could no longer function or communicate effectively. It promoted grandstanding over deliberative process.

The author(s) signed names of various organizations, but not their own. The organizations' websites do not list their leaders' names or details about membership. This clandestine approach raises questions about their motives, and the representativeness and generalizability of their views. They argue the new format provides "no way of knowing which other residents are observing a meeting." Why does an anonymous letter-writer need to know the names of others watching a meeting? In-person meetings do not require name tags to enter council chambers. No one roams the streets during council meetings with a clipboard, peering in windows to check who is watching an online stream or cable broadcast.

Inclusive government requires efficiency, enabling all residents to be heard, not just those with time to sacrifice sleep for bicker-

ing. Residents are given adequate time to make a point, if they are able to do so, and business can actually be completed. Council and staff are becoming adept at the webinar format and, with experience, meetings will be more fluid. There is a clear process to submit comments to a meeting facilitator. This is common for competently run online meetings addressing complex issues with many participants.

I ask council to continue the current model, a refreshing and practical approach to accomplish the work put to them by residents.

Johanna Goderre

Keeping Streets Clean

On my way to the store on Sunday, I drove past a man on Southway holding a huge black contractor bag and picking up trash. When I arrived at my destination, I sat in the car and decided to turn back around to find this good Samaritan picking up trash on this cool and brisk Sunday afternoon. Well, I found him in front of the Municipal Building and thanked him for his unwavering dedication of picking up trash in our town. I learned that Ron, Bob and another man care enough about our town, a hidden gem, to pick up trash so that the streets and town are litter free. A big thank you to these three good Samaritans who unselfishly pick up discarded trash thrown on our streets. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Claudia Jones



On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Death on the Nile

Director Kenneth Branagh offers up his cinematic take on the Agatha Christie novel. Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot's Egyptian vacation aboard a glamorous river steamer turns into a terrifying search for a murderer when a picture-perfect couple's idyllic honeymoon is tragically cut short. Set against an epic landscape of sweeping desert vistas and the majestic Giza pyramids, this tale of unbridled passion and incapacitating jealousy features a cosmopolitan group of impeccably dressed travelers and enough wicked twists and turns to leave audiences guessing until the final, shocking denouement. Starring Kenneth Branagh (Poirot), Gal Gadot, Armie Hammer, Emma Mackey, Annette Bening and Tom Bateman.

Rated PG-13, running time 127 minutes

Cyrano

Award-winning director Joe Wright envelops moviegoers in a symphony of emotions with music, romance and beauty in *Cyrano*, re-imagining the timeless tale of a heartbreak love triangle. A man ahead of his time, Cyrano de Bergerac (Peter Dinklage) dazzles whether with ferocious wordplay at a verbal joust or with brilliant swordplay in a duel. But, convinced that his appearance renders him unworthy of the love of a devoted friend, the luminous Roxanne (Haley Bennett), Cyrano has yet to declare his feelings for her – and Roxanne has fallen in love, at first sight, with Christian (Kelvin Harrison, Jr.) The production is based on the stage musical.

Rated PG-13, running time 123 minutes

Monday Matinee

In the Heat of the Night

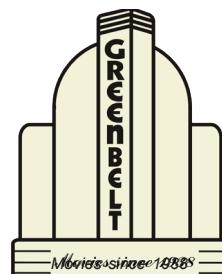
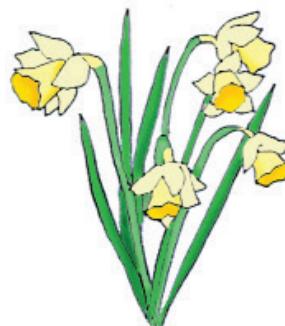
This mystery drama, set in 1967, tells the story of a murder in Mississippi that makes unlikely partners of Virgil Tibbs (Sidney Poitier), a Black detective from Philadelphia, and redneck Police Chief Gillespie (Rod Steiger). At first accused of the murder, Tibbs is cleared and then asked by Gillespie to help in the investigation. Directed by Norman Jewison, the film is based on the 1965 John Ball novel of the same name. The line delivered by Poitier, "They call me Mister Tibbs!" is among film history's most memorable quotes. The production won five academy awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Rod Steiger.

Rated PG-13, running time 110 minutes

Thank you GHI

I deeply appreciate all of the letters, cards and News Review letter to the editor for me – words cannot express how much I truly miss you all in GHI. Please remember that family never parts. I have found a position that will help me to further my goals. Remember I still and always will be a Greenbelter. We are neighbors forever. Please feel free to contact me at my email address, raeonme65@gmail.com, all emails are welcome. Miss you all so much.

Monica Johnson
Former GHI administration
staff member



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES

March 4 - March 7

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination OR negative PCR test
(within 72 hours)

AND matching photo ID required for admission.

For more information call
(301) 329-2034 or visit
greenbelttheatre.org

DEATH ON THE NILE
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2022)

(127 MINS)

FRI. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

SAT. 5:00 PM

SUN. 2:00 PM (OC)

MON. 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM

CYRANO (PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2022) (123 MINS)

SAT. 8:00 PM

SUN. 5:00 PM

MONDAY MATINEE: FREE
(REGISTER ONLINE AT
GREENBELTTHEATRE.ORG)
IN THE HEAT OF THE
NIGHT (PG-13) (1967)
(110 MINS)
MON. 1:00 PM



My parents want me to raise my expectations.

- Michael Kusie

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

Living with Paradox In a Warming World

Everyone is invited to the March meeting of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network via Zoom on Wednesday, March 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. The Zoom link is available at chears.org/gcan.

While living with the devastating effects of human-caused climate change and working to slow or reverse the warming trend and protect life on our planet, paradoxes may cause one to wonder if those actions are meaningful or meaningless. For example, with the city, county and state quickly transitioning to electric cars and buses, does the extraction of materials for electric vehicles have its own environmental and human costs? In trying to reduce the use of plastics, which are made from fossil fuels, there are other concerns. Does switching from plastic to heavier materials like glass increase the climate impacts from shipping?

Recognizing these paradoxes can cause anxiety and paralysis, or they can be an opportunity for exploration and connection. Join in the meeting to talk about these paradoxes and how to make space for them while continuing to do important climate work. Think about and bring examples of the paradoxes people are living with to discuss with the group.

For more information, email Lore Rosenthal at SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com or call 301-345-2234 (landline, no text).

Order Free Rapid Home Covid-19 Tests

The federal government is making available free at-home Covid-19 tests, with each residential household in the U.S. eligible to order one set of four rapid antigen tests. The brief order form, asking for only contact and shipping information, takes just a moment to fill out. The form and more information can be found at COVIDtests.gov. Orders will ship within 7 to 12 (or more) days, with delivery by the U.S. Postal Service.

Fortin Exhibit Graces Council Chambers

A new exhibit of paintings by Christine Fortin is currently on view in council chambers at the Municipal Building. Fortin is a participant in Greenbelt Recreation ceramics and visual arts programs. Her work resonates with modern and ancient art history while inviting the viewer to peer through the unique, kaleidoscopic lens of her imagination.

Guests may see the show Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Friday, April 8. Masks are required. Ring the doorbell at the front entrance facing Crescent Road. For more information email ndewald@greenbeltdmd.gov or visit greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**

Passport Hours At the Library

New passport acceptance service hours at the Greenbelt Library, effective March 1, are: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgmls.info/passport-services. All applicants regardless of age must be present at their appointment and families with multiple applicants must schedule separate appointments for each applicant.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Agers will have two special activities this month. On Wednesday, March 9, they will have Virtual Fun and Games and Wednesday, March 30, they will meet in person at Schrom Hills Park to celebrate National Take a Walk in the Park Day. All meetings (except for March 30) are still being held on Zoom each Wednesday at 11 a.m. To join the Golden Agers email list and obtain Zoom information for virtual meetings, contact Becky Sutfin at rsutfin@greenbeltdmd.gov.

March 9, Virtual Fun and Games

March 16, March birthdays celebration

March 23, Virtual BINGO

March 30, meet in person at Schrom Hills Park; water and snack provided.

Garden Club Meets To Assign Plots

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club will be having a virtual plot assignment meeting. The meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. An email will be sent to returning gardeners with a link to join. New and returning plot holders may download and fill out the application form on the club's website at greenbeltgardenclub.com.

At the Library

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System is once again teaming up with the Washington Wizards to present the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge through March 31. Prince Georgians can join the fun by participating in challenges for a chance to win prizes. Participants may complete and log activities including reading, watching Wizards games, attending virtual library programs, staying active and engaging with the Library and Wizards. Readers who complete the challenge will be entered into a raffle to win a variety of prizes. All ages are welcome. Register on Beanstack (website or mobile app).

Local Quilters Featured In Courthouse Exhibit

Quilts Across Maryland are once again on display at the Federal Courthouse on Cherrywood Lane, now through the end of April. A space-theme quilt, called Star Formation, pieced by local Greenbelt quilter (and News Review staffer) Ann Bauman and quilted by Greenbelter Christy Bailey, is among the works hanging on the first three floors of the Courthouse's central atrium.

This is the 19th annual exhibit, organized by the Annapolis Quilt Guild with contributions from guilds throughout Maryland. The quilts on display in the 2020 exhibit were "held hostage" by the Covid-19 pandemic, as the courthouse was locked down after the quilts had been hung. In 2021, the annual exhibit was cancelled due to the continuing pandemic restrictions. The quilts were finally returned to their makers in mid-2021, when the courthouse reopened to the public.

The courthouse is open to the public, including quilt enthusiasts, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, except holidays. Proof of vaccination must be shown and masks must be worn.



2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUNDAY MARCH 20 at 3pm via Zoom Video Conference

Greenbelt Access Television will be hosting our **Annual Membership Meeting** over Zoom again this year.

Current GATE Members will receive a link for the meeting in advance. Guests are welcome and can request the meeting

link by email to greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

GATE Members will be voting to fill two open Board Member positions.

If the election is contested, anonymous online voting will take place during the meeting. If you are a current GATE Member and would like to run for an open seat, please submit a photograph and short bio over email to be included in the list of candidates.

Nominations will be open until March 4th at 4pm.

There will be a vote on suggested bylaw amendments. To view the proposed amendments, please visit

<https://greenbeltaccess.org/proposed-bylaw-amendments>



The 2021 Winners of GATE's Annual Rose Award for Best Greenbelt Community Video will be announced during the meeting!

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
FIND OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE at www.greenbeltaccess.org by clicking on Channel

Artful Afternoons

Enjoy free art workshops for all ages at the Community Center. Monthly Sundays will start March 6 at 1 p.m., with future workshops on April 3, May 1 and June 5. Pre-registration is required; sign up at City of Greenbelt Maryland Special Events Calendar.

Spring Activity Guide Online

The Greenbelt Recreation spring activity guide is available online at greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation. Registration for residents and nonresidents is ongoing.

Alonzo Washington Offers Scholarship

State Delegate Alonzo T. Washington is now accepting applications for his 2022-2023 Scholarship Award Program. Applications, open to current high school seniors or those seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree, are available online at tinyurl.com/WashingtonScholarship2022. Masks required.

Sen. Pinsky Offers 2022 Scholarship

Applications are being accepted for State Senator Paul Pinsky's 2022 Senatorial Scholarship. Those applying should be current high school seniors or full-time and part-time degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate students who live in the 22nd Legislative District.

The application is available online at senatorpinsky.org. Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in addition to the scholarship application.

Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need and commitment to higher education. Awards range from \$500 to \$2,000.

For anyone who received an award from Senator Pinsky during a previous academic year, the award will be renewed automatically as long as the awardee maintained satisfactory academic progress. For more information call 301-858-3155 or email paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us. The application deadline is Sunday, April 3.

City Celebrates Centenarians

The City of Greenbelt would like to celebrate Greenbelt residents who have reached the milestone age of 100 years. To have a loved one or friend recognized, contact Rebekah Sutfin at 240-542-2056 or rsutfin@greenbeltdmd.gov. The centenarian can choose from a variety of options to celebrate.

The city will continue to promote senior services and appreciation throughout the year. Recognizing the city's diverse population, Greenbelt seeks to celebrate centenarians' experiences and wisdom, provide activities that meet their needs and encourage seniors to age in place here in Greenbelt.



Greenbelt Access Television Mar 4, Fri – Mar 10, Thu

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccess.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	GATE Classic Film • Comedy/Adv	Cyrano de Bergerac • 1950 José Ferrer
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	2021-2022 Middle School Championship
2pm	Music at the New Deal	CAZ • Soul Rock Reggae
3pm	GATE Classic Film • Comedy/Adv	Cyrano de Bergerac • 1950 José Ferrer
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	2021-2022 Middle School Championship
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	GATE Classic Film • Comedy/Adv	Cyrano de Bergerac • 1950 José Ferrer
10pm	Music at the New Deal	CAZ • Soul Rock Reggae
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming

Connect with GATE www.greenbeltaccess.org

Obituaries

Glenn Wolf



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Glenn Jeffrey Wolf

Glenn Jeffrey Wolf, born April 15, 1952, in Russellville, Ark., died unexpectedly but peacefully in his sleep on February 17, 2022, at home in Greenbelt.

The son of the late Ruth and Robert Wolf, Glenn grew up in Cheverly and spent the majority of his life in Greenbelt. He graduated from Bladensburg High School and studied at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. He worked in the automotive field before landing a job at Olympic Auto Parts, where he worked his way up and purchased the College Park store in 1986. He expanded Maryland Olympic to multiple stores and over 100 employees. He retired in 2013.

Glenn enjoyed traveling, including numerous cross-country road trips, attending auto races or simply exploring new places. He loved camping at Lake George, N.Y., long into adulthood, after going there as a child with his parents. He and his wife Liz enjoyed their second home on St. Leonard's Creek in Calvert County, where he regularly went boating. He also enjoyed international travel.

Sports were a passion for Glenn, both participating and watching. He grew up playing tennis, baseball and basketball.



Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

The Bible Says...

and My people who are called by My name
humble themselves and pray and seek My face
and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven,
will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org



During the pandemic, we gather **VIRTUALLY** for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

FDeBernardo@aol.com

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Condolences to the family and friends of Glenn Wolf of Lakeside, who recently died unexpectedly.

Our sympathies to the friends and family of longtime Greenbelter Lenore Algaze, aka The Cat Lady, who died on February 22.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff and students at Greenbelt Middle School for being one of two schools in the county to earn a 2021 Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) certification.

Congratulations to Annamarie Garcia of Greenbelt's Lakewood neighborhood who recently entered the Catholic religious order of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, aka the "Servidoras." They are a missionary order that has a presence in more than 35 countries. As she discerns her calling to this order, she will study and learn their way of life for approximately five years before making a



final commitment (final vows). Her home base during these studies is in Upper Marlboro and in Washington, D.C. Annamarie is a 2021 graduate of Elizabeth Seton High School and is the sister of Felicity and daughter of Sarah and Lenny Garcia, Greenbelt residents since 1997.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Annamarie Garcia

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc

301-474-9410

Reverend Rivera, Pastor

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Happy Lent! What will you sacrifice?



"Instruments and means of human destruction have enormously multiplied in this era of material civilization. But if material civilization shall become organized in conjunction with divine civilization, if the man of moral integrity and intellectual acumen shall unite for human betterment and uplift with the man of spiritual capacity, the happiness and progress of the human race will be assured." — 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666

www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



March 6 10 a.m.

The Weight We Carry: On Being a Fat Woman In a Fatantagonistic World

Abi Hanley, Rev. Ann Kadlecik with Worship Associate Diana McFadden

Fatness. It's something that many of us are uncomfortable talking about, but in this service we will do just that, through the lens of a woman who's lived with fat prejudice for decades. We'll also explore the foundations of size discrimination, and the alternatives we might discover in our Unitarian Universalist values.

City Notes

The Animal Shelter hosts 10 cats, a kitten and two dogs after welcoming two cats who were rescued from a vacant unit and one stray dog. One cat was adopted.

Refuse/Recycling collected 28.28 tons of refuse and 12.25 tons of recyclables. Horticulture/Parks created a path in the Food Forest at Buddy Attick Park and Sustainability/Environmental's volunteer event caged 15 trees and removed four cubic yards of invasive vines. Building maintenance installed lighting in the Municipal Building and repaired the popcorn warmer at the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

The Museum's Black History Month lecture, Saving Black History Sites, attracted 21 viewers and is on the Museum's YouTube channel. Therapeutic Recreation facilitated the Golden Age Club's Black History Month lecture about the Military Road School and Preservation Trust.

Two families received financial assistance and 23 seniors received frozen meal delivery.

Park rangers observed unpermitted groups using athletic fields; permitted groups will have priority access beginning in March.

March Is Red Cross Month

Celebrate the month by donating, giving blood or volunteering on Red Cross Giving Day, Wednesday, March 23.

Join Red Cross Month by visiting redcross.org to make a financial donation, give blood, become a volunteer or take a class in lifesaving skills, such as first aid and CPR. On March 23, one can also join the annual Red Cross Giving Day campaign by donating at redcross.org/givingday to help provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance for people affected by disasters both large and small.

The Red Cross blood supply remains vulnerable as doctors begin to resume elective surgeries previously delayed by the omicron variant. It's critical that individuals schedule a blood or platelet donation immediately to help ensure patients get the care they need as soon as possible. To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free Call Metropolitan Washington Ear 301-681-6636
No special equipment needed

**The Bus**

Seniors, Children with School ID and Customers with Disabilities RIDE FREE



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR MARCH 6-MARCH 12

Monday, March 7 at 7 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING - CLOSED SESSION (ACTING CITY MANAGER)**

Monday, March 7 at 8 pm, **WORK SESSION - WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**, *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streaming at greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv*

Wednesday, March 9 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2022, Update of Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, New Business, Adjourn*

Wednesday, March 9 at 8 pm, **WORK SESSION – REPARATIONS COMMISSION DISCUSSION**, *Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streaming at greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv*

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, March 7th, 2022, at 7:00 pm, virtually via Zoom to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting will be to meet with the Acting City Manager.

** The public may attend the Greenbelt Work Session prior to the closed session, and observe the vote of the City Council to move into closed session on Monday, January 31.*

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

GREENBELT CARES PRESENTS THE D.R.A.M.A. CLUB**Dispute Resolution And Managing Anger**

Free Adult Group, Ages 18+

Join us online on Mondays, March 14 - May 16 from 7 pm - 8:15 pm

To enroll, send an email to: cares@greenbeltdmd.gov

Pepco is offering customers \$75 for a limited time for recycling their old working refrigerators and freezers.

Customers must schedule their pick-up between March 1 and March 31 and have their appliance picked up by April 14 to qualify. Customers can also recycle a dehumidifier or room A/C at the same time to receive an additional \$25. Pepco's Appliance Recycling program typically offers customers \$50 for recycling their old appliances.

Interested customers can schedule their pick-up or find out more by visiting www.pepco.com/ApplianceRecycling or calling (877) 743-3117.

Do you enjoy serving your community? Are you available every third Thursday of the month from 10am to 3pm?

COME OUT AND HELP AS A PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEER!

To sign up, contact Flora Li at fli@greenbeltdmd.gov or (301) 412-2480



Greenbelt Recreation's 2022 Spring Activity Guide has been posted! Visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation for more information.

Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @ cityofgreenbelt! For City information and events visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov

COVID-19 MANDATORY INDOOR MASK POLICY

The City of Greenbelt's practice has been to closely monitor and consider county and state COVID-19 policies and practices for implementation in the City. These county and state policies are based upon health guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Maryland Department of Health and the Prince George's Office for Health, Human and Education Services.

Given the most recent guidance, and taking into account our staff and residents desire for notice, effective Monday, March 7, 2022 we will lift the mandatory indoor mask mandate for all visitors entering the City facilities and for all vaccinated employees. Unvaccinated visitors and employees are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccination.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call (301) 474-8000

WEED WARRIORS: INVASIVE PLANT PULL

March 12 | 10 am - 1 pm

Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Schrom Hills Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species. Masks will be required at all times.

Reminders:

Bring a reusable water bottle

Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes

Students: bring community-service forms

Must register to participate; limited to 25 volunteers

To Register, email: kdriscoll@greenbeltdmd.gov

FREE TUTORING PROGRAMS

Registration open for K-12

Thursdays 3-5:30pm
6101 Cherrywood Lane

Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies

For more information or special accomodation, contact:
(202) 710-6473
dayoku@greenbeltdmd.gov

Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update (as of 2/22/22)

Rent and Utility Assistance

• 223 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$858,311.48

Mortgage and HOA Assistance

• 5 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$7,999.34

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION ¡GRATIS! DISTRIBUCION DE VERDURAS

Thursday, March 17

1 pm - 3 pm

Walk-ups are welcome!

Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road

jueves, 17 de marzo

1 pm - 3 pm

¡Los que llegan a pie son bienvenidos!

Centro Comunitario de Greenbelt
15 Crescent Road

Powerful Tools FOR Caregivers

FEELING STRETCHED AS A CAREGIVER?

Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes help caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a friend or relative. Whether you provide care for a spouse, partner, parent, friend, or a child with special needs; at home or in a care facility, whether down the block or miles away, yours is an important role. This course is for family caregivers like you!

This virtual six-week class series gives you the confidence and support to better care for your loved one – and yourself.

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A BOOK, THE CAREGIVER HELPBOOK

Classes will be hosted via Zoom on Wednesdays, from 10:00 am - 11:30 pm

Session #3: March 2 - April 6 | Session #4: May 4 - June 8

For more information or to register contact Katherine Farzin via Office: (240) 542-2019 or Email: kfarzin@greenbeltdmd.gov

Making Hybrid Meetings Work For People at all Vision Levels

by Aileen Kroll

The Center for Dynamic Community Governance (CDCG) initiates programs based on the needs presented by the Greenbelt community. In 2019, blind community members brought forward to CDCG the specific challenges they face in hybrid meetings (meetings with sighted and unsighted participants). With support from the city, CDCG offered four open, free sessions to develop ideas for holding full participation meetings.

The sessions resulted in a proposal based on the collective input of the sighted, blind and low-vision persons who attended the sessions. This proposal is intended for use by everyone. The hope and intention are that the outlined practices be incorporated into meetings held throughout Greenbelt (and beyond) and become standard operating procedure.

To read the full proposal, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CDCGHybridMeetings>. CDCG recognizes that the proposals and insights in this document must be put into action to be meaningful. The CDCG is available to support community organizations and local businesses in this endeavor.

The proposal largely addresses the kind of people-to-people interactions that can positively impact the way people work, talk to and address each other. There are also apps (many for free) that can assist in this process. A few of them are mentioned in the footnotes. Like all apps, it is a growing field.

The proposal ends with the big-picture recommendations and reflections of the participants. The CDCG looks forward to city and county discussions on these significant issues.

This proposal is a living document. It is intended to be the beginning of an on-going discussion. The document includes many voices; all are encouraged to add theirs. Share thoughts, comments and lived experiences to be added to the document.

The sessions raised consciousness. Many sighted people felt safe to ask questions and voice uncertainties that rarely, if ever, have a place to be heard. For example, sighted people often make assumptions about the needs and wants of blind people that may be well-intentioned but incorrect. Participant feedback consistently addressed how much there is to

learn from each other through the practice of respectful, meaningful listening and engagement.

Having the 'blind experience' is empowering for sighted people. For example, being in a meeting with a blank screen or role-playing vignettes with blind roles can help sighted persons explore the experience of blindness.

CDCG extends its deepest thanks to the members of the Greenbelt community (and greater Prince George's County) who engaged in these thoughtful and challenging discussions. They acknowledge the participation of Mayor Emmett Jordan and Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver, current and former members of the Greenbelt City Council and numerous city staff members who contributed their time, wisdom and support to make this project possible. And, finally, they thank the members of the Greenbelt Timebank who provided skillful scribe support. It truly takes a village!

Aileen Kroll is a board member, trainer and co-founder of the Center for Dynamic Community Governance.



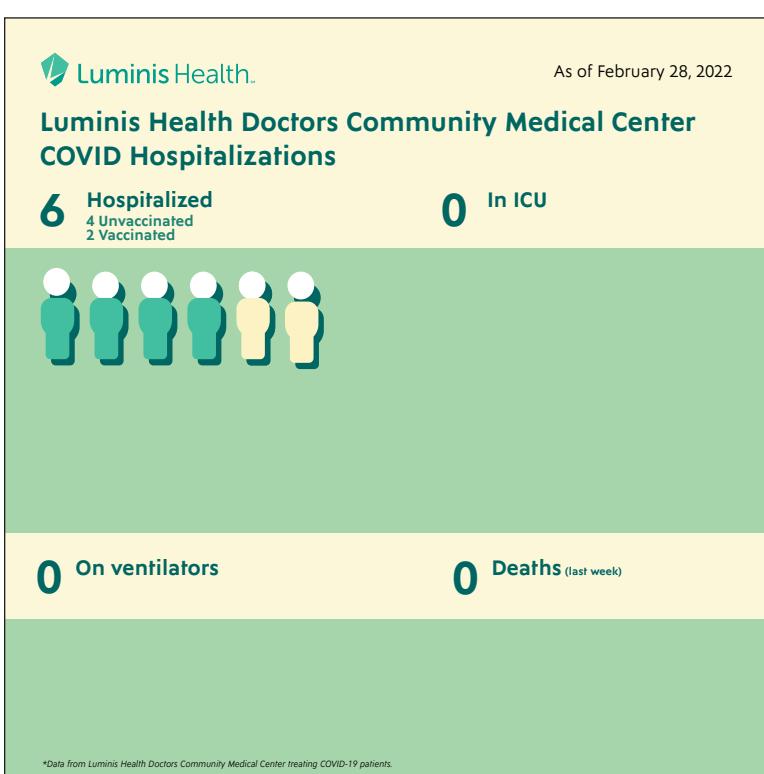
Male and female ring-necked ducks

Covid Update: Cases Now Low

As data from the most recent week at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) show, the number of patients now hospitalized with Covid is down to a trickle with no deaths, nobody ventilated and nobody in intensive care. Even still, those remaining in hospital are all either partially or not vaccinated. Due to the low tallies, this graphic will be discontinued after this week's issue of the News Review. The community thanks LHDCMC for its willingness to create this infographic for local readers.

Prince George's County also reports declining cases, lower positivity percentages and a case rate that has dropped to the very low end of the "substantial" CDC category for the last seven days of February and is likely trending downwards.

Data for Greenbelt's 20770 ZIP code indicates that the rate of new infections has dropped to an average of just over one per day for the past week.



County/City Drop Mandates

by Haley Kerby

Prince George's County lifted the indoor mask mandate on Monday, February 28, while the city will keep their mask mandate in city facilities until March 7.

The county announcement comes from County Executive Angela Alsobrooks in response to Covid-19 case rates continuing to drop significantly in Prince George's County following the height of the Omicron variant.

After consulting with health officials, the county is confident in its decision to lift the mandate as the county has one of the lowest transmission rates in Maryland. Alsobrooks says she "couldn't be prouder to be a Prince Georgian."

Masks will continue to be required while using public transportation, including buses, trains

and planes, per the Centers for Disease Control order still in place.

Masks will also continue to be required inside Prince George's County public schools and offices, with the hope of easing the restriction by the end of the school year. County officials know that some residents may continue wearing masks and ask the public to remain respectful of one another.

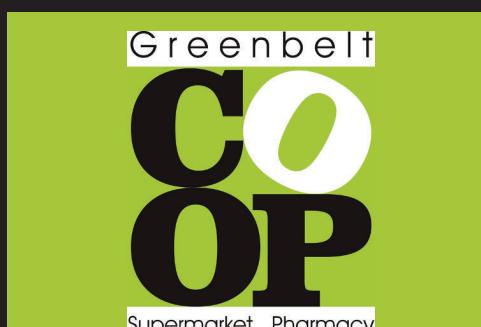
The announcement also includes a reminder that residents who have not yet been vaccinated or boosted still have plenty of opportunities to do so.

Haley Kerby is a University of Maryland journalism student serving as an intern for the News Review this semester.

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- Live Oysters - Chincoteague, Va.
- Raw & Boiled Shrimp
- Norwegian Salmon, Cod, Haddock & Tilapia

Apology to Dr. Suess for the headline

Greenbelt Seniors Softball League

Season is starting
Men 60 and over
Women 50 and over
in good health

Contact
Misty McGill
(240) 444-3261
Jimmy Hoyles
(202) 412-4311

Advisory Boards Collect, Discuss Ideas and Then Refer to Council

by Destiny Herbers

In May 2021, the city turned on charging stations for electric vehicles. In January 2022, the Greenbelt City Council passed a 22-item police reform resolution on January 10. The similarity? These items went through the city's advisory boards where they were hashed out before council took action.

Greenbelt's advisory committees and boards provide an opportunity for residents to engage with the community and impact policy decisions of council on a variety of issues. The primary function of committees is advising council by providing consensus on the issues before them or by bringing ideas to council that are important to address, according to Ben Friedman, chair of the Advisory Planning Board.

Each committee meeting follows an agenda, which is available prior to the meeting via the Meetings Calendar on the city website at greenbeltdmd.gov. Minutes summarizing the proceedings are posted on the website after each meeting.

"Usually, we try and have one or two things we're discussing, but we'll be reviewing anything from development proposals that come before the city ... to new things that we think are appropriate for the city's attention and budget," Friedman said.

Recently, the planning board originated an idea with Green ACES to bring infrastructure for electric vehicles to Greenbelt to keep up with progress in College Park and Hyattsville. "There was a collaborative effort to develop a report that would take stock of the current situation and make recommendations for what council should consider moving forward," Friedman said.

The city installed electric vehicle charging stations with Pepco and the Electric Vehicle Institute at the Municipal Building, Schrom Hills Park and the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, at the recommendation of the committees.

Committee meetings are open to the public. Residents of Greenbelt and people from other cities are welcome to ask questions or speak on the topics on the agenda.

"I think if someone's interested in joining a committee, attending them and getting a sense of how they flow and how they work is a great first step," Friedman said.

Peggy Higgins, a member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, said she joined as a way

to take action after George Floyd was murdered, while staying safe from Covid-19.

"I didn't feel like I could go out in the streets and decided to look to see what I could do in regard to the issues that were raised by his death," Higgins said. When she saw that a position on the Public Safety Advisory Committee was open, she decided to apply.

After she was selected to join the committee, Higgins said that she worked on making recommendations to council to update the Greenbelt Police Department's general orders with an emphasis on de-escalation.

"It's satisfying to be able to contribute to my community and to my neighborhood in a way that I think will make a difference. I've been thankful for the opportunity to do meaningful work," said Higgins.

When there is an opening on any board, council accepts volunteers and nominations, then does interviews and determines who is best suited to fill the vacancy based on those interviews, Friedman said. Vacancies are advertised in the Greenbelt News Review and at city facilities.

"It's a way to really engage more deeply in the community and learn what's happening in the community," said Friedman. "So, I would encourage people to get involved and let their voices be heard."

Destiny Herbers is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.



Bluebird

Clarice Viola Concert Of Women Composers

The Viola Speaks Through Women Composers, a free concert in the UMD School of Music Faculty Artist Series, will be presented live in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall at The Clarice on Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m. Guest pianist Audrey Andrist will join Professors Katherine Murdock (viola) and Mark Hill (oboe), performing works by Minna Keal, Ann Park-Rose, Alexandra Bryant and Elizabeth Maconchy.

Streaming of this concert will be available only live, not afterwards.



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GILA, CARES Appeal to Fill Gaps in Current Eviction Relief

by Joy Allchin

In December of 2021, the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA) received an email from Greenbelt CARES. A Greenbelt family was in danger of being evicted from their apartment after a long period of Covid-caused unemployment and the city's emergency funds had run out.

Collaboration between GILA and CARES has a long history. Before the pandemic, GILA held fundraisers twice a year to keep up with emergency needs through the Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF), administered by Greenbelt CARES. With Covid, the needs became greater and the situation more dire. Many residents lost jobs and evictions were postponed, causing hundreds to accumulate huge debts which would eventually have to be paid. Greenbelt CARES and Prince George's County received federal funds to distribute to qualified renters and many were helped to settle huge rent debts as they became re-employed. But there are some who didn't qualify for the federal aid and CARES draws from the local EAF in those cases.

When GILA heard about the Greenbelt family that needed support, its members were contacted, checks were written and Greenbelt CARES was able to help the family stay in their home. CARES expects that there will be other families that do not qualify for federal funds and Greenbelt's

assistance through the EAF will be their only option.

Now, in February of 2022, the situation is further complicated. County-distributed federal funding is no longer taking applications and organizations such as Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army and United Communities Against Poverty have run out of funds. Federal funding continues to be available through Greenbelt CARES, but with limiting regulations. For example, a family whose breadwinner is back at work again is disqualified if their income is over a certain minimal amount, which leaves them able to afford their current rent, but without any extra to pay their back bill. Local support is often the only recourse.

On February 17, Greenbelt CARES announced that due to the overwhelming number of applications already received, they

have temporarily stopped accepting new applications while staff tries to catch up. Local support will be essential for some of these people. Contributions can help a family recover from the effects of the pandemic. To help prevent the cascading effects of eviction, donate by mail or online.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space, and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to Greenbeltdmd.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page, and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is to the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

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MSDE License #54345

Paid Volunteers Needed to participate in hearing research

You will receive \$12 per hour for your participation!



Who? Persons 18 - 30 years old with normal hearing
Persons 65 - 85 years old with either normal hearing or hearing impairment

American English must be your first language.

Where? Dept. of Hearing & Speech, LeFrak Hall, Univ of MD

What does the research involve? You will be seated in a sound booth and will listen to sentences, tones, or noise bursts. You will be asked to push a button when you hear a particular sound, repeat the words or sentences you hear, or watch a video while we record your brainwaves to the sounds presented.

How long will it take? Initial evaluation (to determine eligibility): 2 hours; pre, post, and training portion = approximately 25 hours.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Carol Gorham
hearing@umd.edu, 301-405-4236

MUSEUM continued from page 1



Lawana Holland-Moore speaks about the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund on Zoom.

past, but also create opportunities for dialogue and to form stronger arguments for how to link preservation to the honoring of our ancestors, and the honoring of ourselves."

The fund keeps historic places alive by uncovering and making stories visible through collaboration with and the dedication of grassroots advocates, preservationists, scholars, politicians and the community itself.

Holland-Moore highlighted various sites that have been preserved by the fund, including Shockoe Bottom in Richmond. Through the fund's efforts, she said, this sacred space is no longer in danger of being overlooked or forgotten, but is now a place to remember as a memorial park. Sites in Charlottesville, Va., and Charleston, S.C., were highlighted as well to show the work the National Trust has already done in preserving African American historic sites.

Holland-Moore went on to explain how the action plan has entered its fifth year of a national grant program. The original goal was \$25 million which has now almost tripled thanks to contri-

butions by philanthropists and churches. Since January 2018, the National Trust has vetted over 2,000 project proposals, requesting over \$190 million in preserving historic sites.

Though the focus of this lecture was on how the fund works in preserving historic sites, Holland-Moore also included information on women's initiatives, specifically for African American women as well as for LGBTQ+, by the National Trust to achieve greater quality, recognition, legal standing and respect for generations of both communities.

Toward the end of the lecture, Holland-Moore left the audience with the question: "What story needs to be heard today?" There are many stories to be shared that contribute to the understanding of who we are as Americans and the National Trust wants to hear them.

To learn more about the African American Cultural Heritage Fund and how to help tell a story, visit SavingPlaces.org.

Haley Kerby is a University of Maryland journalism student serving as an intern for the News Review this semester.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

only authorized (by the Maryland Public Service Commission) to install stations on public property, such as in Greenbelt at the Public Works Department. These stations are of no cost to the city and are available for residents and visitors alike. Two-hundred fifty have been authorized, with slightly under half slated for Prince George's County. More are anticipated, with the next phase being installation on private and commercial property.

Ruffin offered Pepco's solar energy expert as a guest to a future worksession to explain the pros and cons of solar panel use to residents of the city.

Flory gave an update on WSSC projects in the city. The water main replacement on Greenbelt Road, in front of Beltway Plaza, is 90 percent complete. The sewer line replacement at Greenbelt Park is finished. Sewer line rehabilitation work throughout Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) is ongoing. Repaving at worksites such as on Southway and at the entrance to Greenbelt Park will have to wait until spring or summer.

According to Marquina, WSSC has no lead pipes and is working

hard toward the goal of replacing all its original pipes. WSSC has experienced a million dollars in cuts, delaying this effort.

Mayor Emmett Jordan alerted WSSC to the pressing issue of replacing the aging sewer and water lines within GHI, saying that the summer may be an appropriate time for that discussion.

Ruffin encouraged the city to keep Pepco abreast of the location of double poles throughout the city. Removal delays are often the result of Verizon or Comcast not removing their lines, with Pepco having no unilateral authority to do that themselves. Currently, wood poles are being transitioned to taller more durable steel poles.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts advocated for all lines to be underground with the threat of more severe storms making pole lines a short-term approach. Ruffin, while acknowledging that this was a hot topic, said this would be an extremely expensive prospect. Yet, he said that Pepco does bury its infrastructure when appropriate.

Concerning achieving lower bills, Ruffin said that Pepco offers both a free and a paid test to

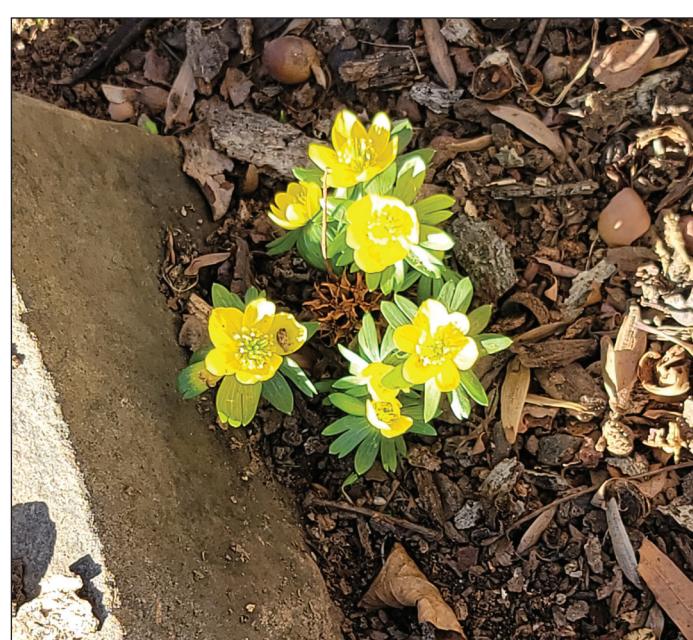
customers to best ascertain any consumption issues like leaks. Ruffin said that information on one's energy usage is available to all customers, through audit reports, accessing one's online account and one's bill statement, which shows comparisons to neighboring residences.

Councilmember Silke Pope spoke up for residents who have experienced higher than normal bills from both utilities. Marquina said that WSSC rates have been raised and that, due to remote work, perhaps more water is being used. Both Marquina and Ruffin suggested reaching out to customer service to best determine each customer's individual issues and the best ways to address them.

Retaining and recruiting experienced staff is an issue for both utilities, with retirement being a major factor recently. Both Marquina and Ruffin stressed the importance of the service being provided. Through outreach to schools of all kinds and job fairs, both utilities seek to promote the well-paying and rewarding careers available.

WSSC, through its requirement to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, monitors closely its water quality, having had no infractions in its 100+ year history. Salt levels and PFAS are a priority. As it is a public utility, all customers can access this information.

At the meeting's close, Ruffin said that Covid has made the future full of unknowns, making responses more reactive than proactive.



Winter aconite blooms in late winter.

PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON



Hilary Ranney-Howes holds her News Review at Key West, Florida.

Creative STEAM Kids

Examine. Imagine. Create
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

Creative STEAM Kids, LLC is offering Saturday STEAM Sessions for children ages 6-10 this spring!

For more information and to purchase tickets, use the QR code above or go to: <https://www.creativesteamkids.org/shop>

You can drop off your child or stay and have fun with us!

Where?
Greenbelt Baptist Church

When?
2:00-3:30pm

Pay what you wish starting at \$5 per child

Space is limited to 15 children- tickets must be reserved in advance

4/2/22- Birds and Beaks
5/7/22- Circuit Flowers
6/4/22- Bee Collaborative

Thinking of Selling Your Home?

I am working with qualified buyers actively seeking a single-family home in Greenbelt. If you are considering a sale, please be in touch.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here are from February 21 to February 27. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltdmd.gov. Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Arrests

On February 22 at 12:46 p.m., Greenbelt Police officers observed a vehicle with no front tag and conducted a traffic stop in the area of Breezewood Drive and Edmonston Terrace. During the traffic investigation, officers located two machetes. The 21-year-old male driver was arrested and charged with concealing a dangerous weapon, four charges of controlled dangerous substances, possession (not marijuana), possession of paraphernalia and possession with intent to distribute. A passenger was also arrested on an open warrant.

DUI arrests were made on February 21 at 7:18 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace and on February 25 at 11:05 p.m. at Kenilworth Avenue and the Capital Beltway. On February 26 at 9:19 a.m. near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, an adult male was arrested on an open warrant.

Fight

On February 26 at 6:08 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a dispute between neighbors turned physical.

Robbery

On February 21 at 4:20 p.m. near 100 Centerway, a victim reported that he was approached by a group of unknown males armed with handguns who demanded his phone.

Break-ins

On February 24 at 2:40 a.m. near 100 Centerway, the front doors of a business were pried open and the door to the pharmacy kicked in. After doing an inventory, the business will let the police know if anything was taken; no suspects are in custody. On February 21 at 1:09 p.m. near 8100 Lakecrest Drive, personal property was taken from a residence.

Disorderly

On February 24 at 11:31 p.m. near 5500 Cherrywood Lane, panhandlers outside of a business became erratic after being asked by management to leave, and one person was given a criminal citation.

Found

On February 22 at 2:34 p.m. near 7800 Walker Drive, a stolen vehicle from Anne Arundel County was located.

Fraud

On February 22 near 9100 Springhill Lane, an unknown suspect used victim's credit card information. Check fraud occurred on February 22 near 550 Crescent Road; on February 23 near 6000 Greenbelt Road; on February 23 near 5 Forestway; and on February 24 near 51 Ridge Road.

FUNDS continued from page 1

Weaver suggested that employees should have until the end of March to submit proof of booster shot receipt and those employees not now vaccinated at all would need to have completed a full sequence. She proposed that the bonus not apply to council and that it be retroactive to those who have already received a booster. No suggestion was made to make the booster a requirement.

A \$100-per-employee bonus for a booster was suggested by Mayor Emmett Jordan (~\$30K total) which could be drawn from ARPA funds. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was opposed, stating he felt it was a duty to be vaccinated for the benefit of others and that people shouldn't be paid for it. Councilmember Silke Pope agreed in principle that it was an individual responsibility but said she still thought the bonus should be done. Councilmember Colin Byrd wanted to hold off and was more in favor of making the full course of vaccinations mandatory. The motion passed but with Byrd and Roberts opposed.

ARPA Rental Support

George described the rationale behind the request for \$200K in additional funding to be drawn from ARPA resources to continue rental assistance. The plan is to

use that assistance to buy time that allows those who need the support to simultaneously benefit from ARPA-supported workforce development programs anticipated by the city. These include work development, employment assistance and child-care support. These emerging programs are focused on the ability to be self-sustaining, moving rent support recipients to a point where they can pay their own rent.

George noted that the duration of ARPA support is limited and that developing independence will cushion the disappearance of ARPA funds in 2024. In response to a question, he noted that about 10 percent of recipients are coming back multiple times for assistance. Accordingly, the rules have been updated so that recipients can only re-apply after three months and must at that time be recertified. George noted that Covid-related circumstances are still a requirement for assistance.

Byrd asked for information on spending so far of the overall ARPA funding. Pope was in favor of allocating the funds for rent relief one last time but would be less receptive of doing so in future so that the money

could be used for other needs.

Residents Lore Rosenthal, Bob Rand and Bill Orleans all supported the additional \$200K request but were inclined toward a more generous or a longer-term provision of rent support.

George, commenting on the city's plan to incorporate public feedback into the planning for longer-term ARPA fund use, stated that he anticipated that the ability to go online to input comments may be available within February and that the majority of the comment gathering would be done during March (including three public meetings), before the budget deliberations. The \$200K request was carried unanimously.

ARPA Owner Support

Also of concern was the continuing low usage of funds for owners, particularly in condominium developments. George related that the city has made multiple efforts to encourage homeowner associations to spread the word, although a recent approach to the city by one local condo association, which currently had a shortfall of \$45,000, indicates that owners unable to keep up are not getting the message.



Common snow drops

PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMS

Candidates for Governor at Forums

Maryland Matters has invited all candidates for governor of Maryland to attend two forums in March on the subject of climate change. The first will be on Tuesday, March 8 at the Riggs Alumni Center at the University of Maryland in College Park, and the second, on Wednesday, March 9, will be at Ungar Athenaeum at Goucher College in Towson, both from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Maryland Matters Founding Editor Josh Kurtz will lead the panel at both events, joined by questioners from various co-sponsoring organizations including the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, the NAACP and the Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative.

This event is part of a Maryland Matters project, Climate Calling, which aims to illuminate major climate issues and hold political leaders to account.

Both forums will be live-streamed and recorded for maximum voter access. In-person attendees must show proof of vaccination and wear N95 or KN95 masks. For more information, contact Maryland Matters at marylandmatters.org.

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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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25A Ridge Rd.

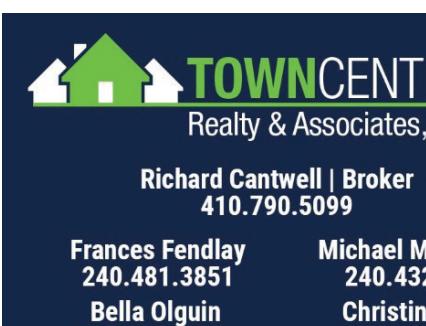
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Sports

BASKETBALL continued from page 1

restrictions) with four straight-made three pointers in the first quarter. Rice coolly cashed in three catch-and-shoot threes; he gathered a pass two feet inside the three-point arc after a Wise turnover, pulled his dribble backwards and sunk a step-back three, resulting in a Wise timeout and a euphoric reaction from the Roosevelt student section. Classmate Carlos Kinard followed Rice in the scoring column as the Raiders jumped to leads of 44-29 at half-time and 63-37 at the end of the third quarter before the starters rested on the bench in celebration for the final minutes of the fourth quarter.

Roosevelt carries the region's number-two seed after splitting their regular season series with the archrival Bowie Bulldogs, who defeated the Raiders with a buzzer beater on Valentine's Day. Roosevelt returned the favor with a home victory the following evening in a game that started as a defensive struggle before the Raiders separated themselves in the second half, following a strong performance behind 6'7" forward Jaylin Payne. Their tiebreaking playoff rematch is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2 at Bowie. Last Wednesday, February 23, Roosevelt lost another close contest in the county championship game. The Douglass Eagles overcame the Raiders, 63-61, in double overtime – the last game before the start of playoffs. After dealing with injuries throughout the season, the Raid-



The Raiders listen as Coach Brendan O'Connell guides them during senior night.

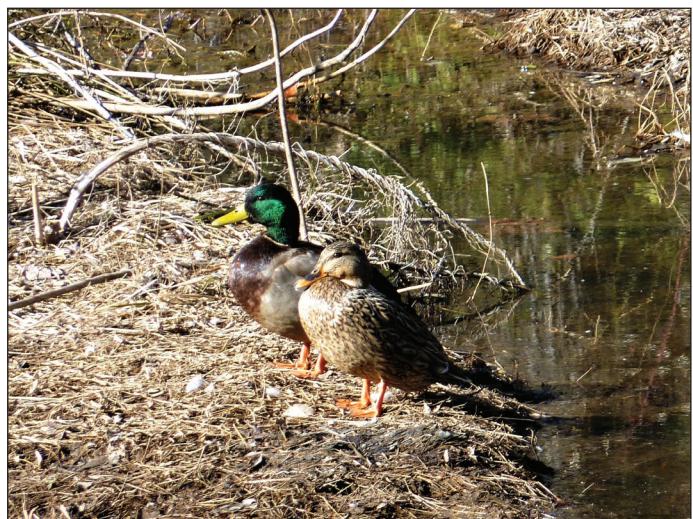
ers are as healthy as they have been, especially happy to have the return of junior point guard Bryson Whitley, a calming presence for their offense.

Lady Raiders

As for the Lady Raiders, they have endured growing pains with a largely new roster from two seasons ago. Sameera Smith, a four-year varsity player, is the go-to scorer, while classmate Jahnaiya Sutherland is a reliable defender and rebounder. Additionally, junior Ariana Phillips has stepped into a more prominent role after recovering from an ACL tear as a freshman. The Lady Raiders enjoyed

back-to-back victories over the Bowie Bulldogs on February 14 and February 15. Coach Delton Fuller's squad has demonstrated growth throughout the year; an early season matchup with C.H. Flowers resulted in a blowout loss for the Lady Raiders, but in their second meeting, Roosevelt led Flowers at halftime.

Their state playoff run begins with a contest against the Suitland Rams on Tuesday, March 1; with a win, the Lady Raiders would play again on Thursday, March 3, where they may face the Flowers Jaguars for a third time. Roosevelt will look to their state championship pedigree – with titles in 2018, 2015, 2014 and a five-peat from 2005-2009 – to guide their playoff journey.



Two ducks enjoy a warm February day at the Lake.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

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Greenbelt PORCH Grows

by Robert Goldberg-Strassler

Greenbelt PORCH is proud to announce its latest expansion. Girl Scout Maya Gareri will begin collecting monthly non-perishable food items from the residents of 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road on the fourth Sunday of every month. Lakeside Drive joins the other PORCHers on the third Sunday, March 20.

Greenbelt PORCH has rolled out P.A.L. – PORCH At Large for those Greenbelters who are interested in the PORCH program but currently do not have a coordinator for their neighborhood. P.A.L. donors doubled in number in February. To participate, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com with the address by noon on March 20 and leave the donation, marked RUAK or PORCH, by the front door, visible from the street. Make sure donated items are not past their use-by date.

March pickups are scheduled below:

By 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 13 for Woodland Hills

By 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 13 at the 1 to 8 Courts Ridge, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent and 1 to 2 Courts Westway



Girl Scout Maya Gareri collects food for Greenbelt PORCH.

Overpass Vigil Held in Concern For Hunger Plight of Afghans

by Donna Hoffmeister



At the Spellman Overpass, the Peace and Justice Coalition forms a vigil for mass starvation in Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY AMANDA JENNINGS

Between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 20 for all of Boxwood Village

Between 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 20 for Lakeside Drive

Between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 20 for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members

Between 9 and 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 26 for 14 and Courts 15 Laurel Hill

By 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 27 for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge

Road.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are welcome. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

On a windy and cold Saturday, a dozen people from the Peace and Justice Coalition formed a vigil on the footbridge over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to express their concern about the pending starvation of people in Afghanistan. According to the World Food Program, 8.7 million Afghans are at risk of famine and 22.8 million suffer food insecurity.

Economists agree that the primary cause of the famine is the collapse of the banking sector on August 15, 2021. The U.S. government froze \$9.4 billion in Afghanistan's currency reserves held in the United States, blocking the Taliban from accessing the money. The Greenbelt protesters said that President Biden's deci-

sion on February 11 to take Afghanistan's money that had been deposited in the Federal Reserve, using half for the 9/11 families and the rest for humanitarian aid, will lead to a continuing famine, also asserting that this money belongs to the Afghan people, not the U.S. They said the Afghan Central Bank is independent of the Taliban and needs the money to re-start the economy.

The two-hour vigil elicited responses from the heavy Saturday traffic below: flashing headlights, honking and people waving to the protesters on the bridge above. Further vigils are planned to bring awareness to the mass starvation in Afghanistan; an overwhelming number of the victims are innocent children.

Hawk Making Poor Decision Freed by Harriet Homeowner

by Cathie Meetre

Sometimes, a bird can goof. One did so recently on a screened porch on Research Road. The porch was empty of furniture and its newly replaced screening material was almost invisible, by design, the better for humans to see the outside. But birds know nothing of porches or the joys of screens, and to this one, it must have seemed like a straight shot.

The bird launched itself fast at something on the far side of the porch and flew right through the side of the vertical screening, leaving a hawk-sized entry hole in the material. But the impact robbed it of momentum, leaving it without the energy needed to break through and out the other side. Physics up to no good, yet again.

Forensic analysis of the hole indicated that the hawk's pointy beak must have pierced the mesh and its flying streamlined body enlarged the hole incrementally but quickly as it went through. One can only assume that its wings were tucked back for the dive rather than being extended.

If a bird hell-bent on prey can look surprised to be landing with a thump in the middle of the porch floor, this one was clearly aghast – though it didn't appear to be hurt. The current best guess is that it was a Cooper's Hawk – with barred white and coffee-colored breast feathers and darker wings about three feet across.

After recovering its equilibrium, the bird tried to escape, but couldn't find the hole it came in through – and from a standing start it's not clear that it was a practical means of egress anyway. Even when the external porch door was opened, the bird persisted in trying to fly out in any direction but the door – seeming to want to go out in



A hawk breached defenses designed only for mosquitos and pierced this screen on a back porch.

PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

the reverse direction to its line of entry. Several times it hung upside down from the screen or the wires that fence the lower part of the structure in apparent frustration and exhaustion. Corn dropped outside the open door failed to entice it. Shooing it gently doorwards merely upset it enough to make repeated panicked attempts to fly out and seemed likely to cause it injury.

Now What?

Unsure of what to do to prevent the poor bird from injuring itself on the structure, Harriet Homeowner found a soft but thick quilt and approached the bird very, very slowly. Expecting the hawk to fly at her, she held the quilt up across her face and peered intermittently over the top ready to protect her eyes from frenzied pecking (teenage exposure to Hitchcock's The Birds having made a very deep impression many years before).

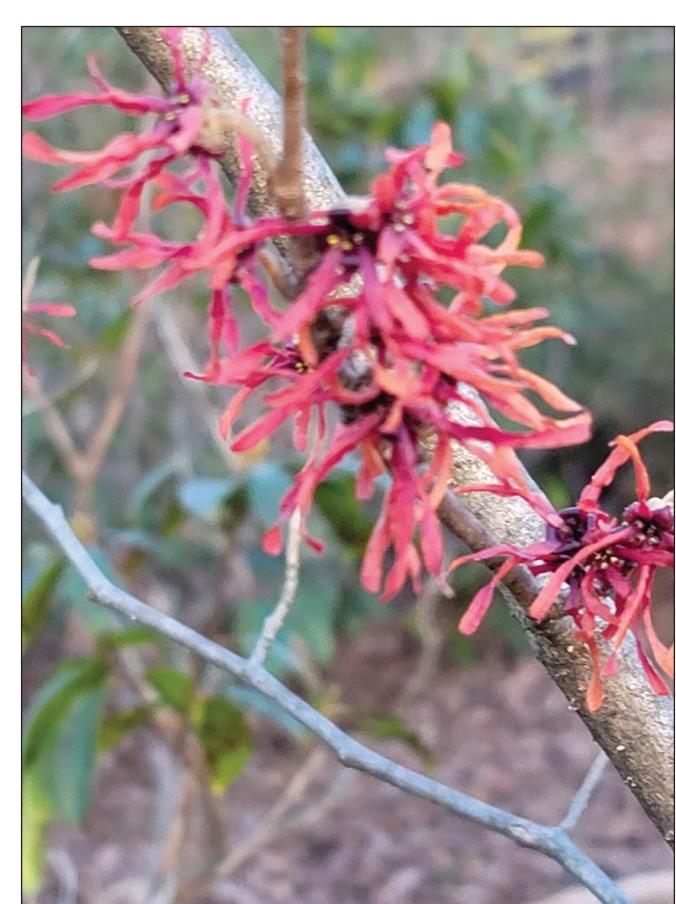
But the bird rolled over on its side like a puppy and furled its wings – almost an act of submission – passively watching the ap-

proaching menace without either trying to get away or going on the offensive.

Moving very slowly, the woman lapped the quilt gently over the bird – which unblinkingly watched her the whole time. The bird didn't struggle as the woman gently and slowly tucked the quilt under it and lifted the bird up in her arms like a baby. Once out of the porch (and having wisely closed the door), Harriet H. gently unwrapped the bird, which opened its wings and fled with some urgency to the safety of the forest.



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Witch hazel Diane offers dark red/orange blooms.

PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

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